(b) the action taken thereon, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the expenses incurred on engaging the Charnalia firm could have been saved had the Accounts Officer been competent and efficient; and

(d) the steps taken to fix the responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) M/s. Charnalia, Bhatia & Gandhi, Chartered Accountants were engaged by the Punjab Wakf Board as Auditors to conduct audit of Punjab Wakf accounts for the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 and computerize the accounts of the Board through double entry system and prepare balance sheets. Work in respect of 1997-98 has been completed and for 1998-99 balance sheet and audit report are under preparation. The Board is taking action on the report.

(c) No Sir. M/s Charnalia, Bhatia & Gandhi Company were engaged for converting single entry accounting system followed by Punjab Wakf Board into double entry system. This work requires service of an expert agency.

(d) Does not arise.

Punjab Wakf land in Faridabad

1927. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in case of Wakf land of Punjab Wakf Board occupied by Sarin brothers in Faridabad;

(b) the reasons for which the PWB has not been able to retrieve the land;

(c) who is largely responsible for the present State of affairs; and

(d) the action taken/being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Four case of Suit of Ejectment under Section 40 of Punjab Tenancy Act were filed by the Punjab Wakf Board in the court of Assistance Collector. 1st. Grade, Faridabad against Sudhir Sareen, Sunil Sareen, Suresh Sareen and Serajul Haq. Out of these four cases, evidence has been completed in two cases.

(b) the PWB had taken action under Section 9 of the Punjab Security of Land tenancy Act due to non payment of patta amount in 1989. Subsequently

the pattadar raised an illegal construction on the land, because of which the case filed was withdrawn in 1997 and the Board was granted permission for filing Suit of Ejectment under Section 40 of the Punjab Tenancy Act. The matter is presently subjudice.

(c) and (d) Officials, posted in the Faridabad Circle of Punjab Wakf Board at that time, who did not initiate legal action in time, are responsible for this. Departmental inquiry was initiated against three officials of the Board in these cases. Subsequently the matter is being inquired into by a three-Member Committee.

More Facilities for Linguistic minorities

1928. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would define 'minority' in the Constitution;

(b) whether Government would public list of linguistic minorities; State-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to give more facilities to linguistic minorities who are also socio-economically backward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The question as to who constitutes a minority is sub-judice under a writ Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further action on this will be taken on the basis of the decision of the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) Information on Linguistic Minorities has been published in the 1991 Census Report by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. The linguistic Minorities are being provided facilities under various ongoing scheme/programmes.

Maltreated Widows in Vrindaban and Varanasi

1929. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether widows residing in Vrindaban and Varanasi are being maltreated; and